(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection and improvement of habitat for wild animals, apart from Eco-development. During the current financial year, the amounts allotted to Tadoba Tiger Reseve under Project Tiger and Eco-development Schemes are Rs. 66.11 lakhs and Rs. 13.00 lakhs respectively.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Ministry of Home Affairs - has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to field formations for curbing poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests) Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(vi) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of Stated Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control within and outside protected areas.

(vii) During IX Plan period, the area of Tiger Reserves has increased from 33,167 sq. km. to 37,761 sq. km.

(viii) Assessing the impact of any developmental project on wildlife and its habitat.

Use of Genetically Modified Seeds

†2794. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial production of crops is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

being made by making use of genetically modified seeds in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab;

(b) if so, the crops being produced in these States by making use of genetically modified seeds; and

(c) the area of agricultural land used for production of these crops during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) set up under the Rule 4 of the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of hazardous microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms of Cells 1989 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has so far not accorded approval for commercial release of any genetically modified seed in the country. In September 2001, it was brought to the notice of the Government that Navbharat Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad, has marketed a genetically modified Bt. Cotton variety without the mandatory approval of GEAC. In Gujarat, this variety is under cultivation in nearly 11,000 acres in 19 districts. In addition, seed production for this transgenic cotton variety is being undertaken in 365 acres in Andhra Pradesh. The Government has lodged a criminal complaint against the offending company for penal action.

Development of FPUs in Tamil Nadu

2795. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN:
SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of food processing industrial units set up in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and how many are working efficiently;